

Message Text

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ORIGIN AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR BEXP TS

SUBJ: SALE OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES: ALFALFA SEED

REF: TUNIS 618

1. SINCE 1974 PRODUCTION DOWN FIVE PERCENT AND CARRYOVER LOWER, SUPPLY ALFALFA SEED 11 PERCENT LESS THAN YEAR EARLIER. NEARLY ALL SEED OF NON-HARDY VARIETIES SUCH AS MENTIONED TOAID-014 ALREADY SOLD OUT OR NEARLY UNAVAILABLE. PRICE HIGH AND TRENDING UPWARD. TRADE EXPECTS PRICE ALFALFA SEED AFTER 1974 HARVEST WILL REMAIN HIGH AND MAY EVEN ADVANCE TO DLS 2.00/LB. CONSEQUENTLY SURVEYED MOST LEADING SPECIALIZED FIRMS WITH NON-HARDY VARIETIES TO ASCERTAIN SEED EXPORT AVAILABILITY.

2. AFRICAN VARIETY IS NOW OBSOLETE AND NON-AVAILABLE. SINCE IT WAS NOT APHID/RESISTANT, MOAPA VARIETY WHICH IS APHID RESISTANT WAS DEVELOPED FROM IT. OTHER NON-HARDY VARIETIES MOSTLY BASED ON MOAPA AND YIELD SOMEWHAT BETTER. SONORA VARIETY IS IN SHORT SUPPLY AND PRICE ESTIMATED DOLS 1.45 TO DOLS 1.80/POUND FOB OR ABOUT DOLS 1.60 TO DOLS 1.95 CIF TUNIS. JOAQUIN (PROPRIETARY VARIETY) SECURITY SEED CO., EL UNICO, MESA SIRSA, AND AF-13 (PROPRIETARY VARIETY) ARE UNCLASSIFIED

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OTHER NON-HARDY VARIETIES SUITABLE FOR TUNISIA. PRICES GIVEN BELOW BY

COMPANIES ARE FOR YOUR GUIDANCE, NOT OFFICIAL COMPANY OFFERS.

3. FERRY MORSE SEED CO., P.O. BOX 100, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CAL. 94042
COULD SUPPLY FEW TONS EACH OF SONORA AND MOAPA AND ENOUGH AF-13 TO
POSSIBLY TOTAL 50 METRIC TONS CERTIFIED SEED. PRICE DOLS 1.45
TO DOLS 1.55/LB. FOB.

4. DESSERT SEED CO., INC. P.O. BOX 181, EL CENTRO, CAL. 92244,
COULD SUPPLY 40 AND POSSIBLY 50 TONS OF EL UNICO, MOAPO AND
MESA SIRSA VARIETIES (BREAKDOWN NOT SPECIFIED) ONLY PART OF WHICH
WOULD BE CERTIFIED. PRICE ABOUT DOLS 1.40/LB. FOB.

5. SECURITY SEED CO., SAN JOAQUIN, CAL. (TELEX 355-344) SAYS SEED
OF JOAQUIN AND SONORA VARIETIES UNAVAILABLE BUT COULD SUPPLY SOME
SEED OF NON-HARDY VARIETIES, POSSIBLY UP TO 50 TONS. PRICE VARIES BY
VARIETY DOLS 1.50 TO DOLS 1.80/LB. FOB.

6. L. TEWELES SEED CO., P.O. BOX 900, MUSCATINE, IOWA 52761 COULD
SUPPLY NON-CERTIFIED MOAPA SEED EXCEEDING CERTIFICATION
REQUIREMENTS AS FOLLOWS: ABOUT NINE TONS STORED IN CALIFORNIA AND
14 TONS IN MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN. PRICE ABOUT DOLS 1.30/LB. FOB.

7. CAL/WEST SEEDS, INC. P.O. BOX 1428, WOODLAND, CAL. 95965 COULD
SUPPLY 50 TONS NON-CERTIFIED MOAPA SEED 99.5 PERCENT PURE, 90
PERCENT GERMINATION, DODDER FREE AT DOLS 1.50/LB. CIF TUNIS IF SHIPMEN
T
WEST COAST PORT. ESTIMATE DELIVERY TIME NINE WEEKS. IF STAINING
REQUIRED, 3 CENTS /LB. MORE. ANY CONSULER FEES ACCOUNT OF
BUYER. WILL HOLD 50 TONS FOR TUNISIA FOR ONE WEEK ONLY.

8. NORTHROP, KING CO. AND ARNOLD-THOMAS SEED SERVICE WHICH BOTH
LARGE PRODUCERS BOTH SOLD OUT SEED OF ALL NON-HARDY VARIETIES.

9. SINCE IMPOSSIBLE CONTACT ALL POTENTIAL SUPPLIERS, THIS INFORMATION
SUPPLIED WITH UNDERSTANDING NO DISCRIMINATION INTENDED AND
NO GUARANTEE RELIABILITY IMPLIED.

10. IN VIEW NEAR EXHAUSTION AVAILABLE SUPPLY SUITABLE SEED,
SUGGEST MINISTRY ACT PROMPTLY TO CONTACT SEED COMPANIES IF THEY
EXPECT BUY FOR SPRING SEEDING. KISSINGER
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